State Governments/Union Territory Administrations, the powers for deciding the rules governing the issue of ration cards rest with them.

Conditions of the Jhuggi Dwellers of Chandigarh

520. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of jhuggi colonies in the Union Territory of Chandigarh and that of Jhuggis and residents in each of these colonies;

(b) what was the population of these colonies during each of the last three years; and

(c) what are the details of the basic civic amenities like water, electricity, school, dispensary provided to these colonies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Implementation of Crash Housing Programme

521. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether crash Housing Programme is not being implemented by Government in letter and spirit;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to ensure that it is implemented expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Surplus stock of rice and wheat

522. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the surplus stock of rice and wheat according to the latest figures;

(b) whether the Public Distribution System is sufficiently and properly geared to undertake effective supply of the essential commodities to people all over the country especially in the rural areas; and

(c) if so, details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) The stocks of rice and wheat with the Food Corporation of India as on 1.4.89 were of the order of 38.72 lakh tonnes and 23.98 lakh tonnes respectively.

(b) and (c) The Public Distribution System (PDS) is properly geared to arrange effective supply of essential commodities of PDS items to the people all over the country including rural areas. Supplies of PDS items are nevertheless supplemental in nature and not meant to provide cent per cent requirements of the population.

As on 31.12.1988, there were over 3.5 lakh fair price shops spread all over the country, of which nearly 76 per cent were in rural areas. In the year, 1988, over 15 million tonnes of foodgrains (wheat and rice) were lifted by the States/UTs from the central poof for supply through the Public Distribution System.

Assistance to Tribal Farmers for meeting Natural Calamities

523. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government give any assistance under any scheme to tribal farmers for meeting natural calamities: